

# GOVERNING

## PUBLIC OFFICIALS OF THE YEAR 2006

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Mississippi's resourceful governor, the consensus-building speaker of the Massachusetts House, and the entrepreneurial executive of King County, Washington, are among the winners of **GOVERNING** Magazine's Public Official of the Year awards for 2006, given in recognition of outstanding achievement at the state and local level.

The winners also include the president of the New Jersey Senate, the mayor of Metropolitan Nashville, Chicago's library commissioner, Philadelphia's chief information officer, the Bush administration homelessness czar, and the city manager of Ventura, California. "These individuals have exhibited a remarkable flexibility," said Alan Ehrenhalt, **GOVERNING**'s executive editor. "They have thrived in the face of the most daunting and unexpected obstacles, from a natural disaster to a health care crisis to entrenched corruption. Their versatile leadership and innovative policies should serve as models for their peers nationwide."

This year's group of recipients is the thirteenth to be honored in **GOVERNING**'s annual awards program, which was launched in 1994. **GOVERNING**, now 19 years old, is an independent national magazine devoted to coverage of state and local government. It has a circulation of 85,000.

### **GOVERNING's 2006 Public Officials of the Year:**



Mississippi Governor **Haley Barbour**, whose cool-headed leadership in the face of Hurricane Katrina put his state on a quick road to recovery, as evidenced by the prompt reopening of public schools and the provision of temporary housing for more than 100,000 residents.



**Salvatore F. DiMasi**, the speaker of the Massachusetts House of Representatives, who forged landmark legislation under which individuals and businesses will share in the cost of providing health insurance to the state's citizens.



**Ron Sims**, the King County, Washington, executive, who turned his jurisdiction into a national leader in preserving open space, combating global warming and promoting healthy lifestyles for public employees.



New Jersey Senate President **Richard J. Codey**, who restored trust in government during his 14 months as governor, implementing ethics reforms after his predecessor resigned because of a scandal.



**Bill Purcell**, the mayor of Metropolitan Nashville, who simultaneously improved his city's quality of life and spurred business expansion with an ambitious agenda that included strengthened public schools and revitalized neighborhoods.



**Dianah Neff**, Philadelphia's former chief information officer, who led a pioneering effort to provide wireless Internet access to all of the city's residents, an initiative that has since been imitated by localities across the country.



**Rick Cole**, city manager of Ventura, California, who has excelled in both elected and appointed roles, promoting innovative mixed-use development that reflects community values and public participation.



Chicago's library director, **Mary Dempsey**, who built a model network of branch libraries, then demonstrated her versatility as an administrator by reforming the city's purchasing practices during a stint as chief procurement officer.



**Phillip Mangano**, the Bush administration's homelessness czar, who has spent 25 years crusading against homelessness, most recently promoting a "housing first" philosophy that has been embraced by big-city mayors across the country.

The award winners are profiled in the November issue of **GOVERNING** and will be honored at a dinner November 15 in Washington, D.C., hosted by the magazine and by the corporate sponsors of the awards:

**Northrop Grumman, Oracle, CGI, HP, Siemens Corporation and Unisys.**

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